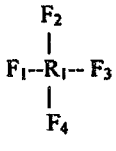
REMARKS

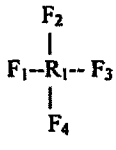
Applicant has received and reviewed an Office Action dated March 13, 2009. The Office Action requests that Applicant correct the species election for "number of building block molecules." The Office Action requests that Applicant identify which claims read on the elected species.

The Species Election Requirement asserted that the claims include multiple species of building block of the formula: framework-(recognition element)$_n$. Applicant elected a building block in which the framework is:



recognition elements designated A1 (CH_2CH_3) and B1 (CH_3), and n=2. Applicant respectfully submits that each of pending claims 1-3, 10-11, 14-15, 83-146 reads on or includes this elected species.

The Species Election Requirement asserted that the claims include multiple species of framework having the formula:



Applicant elected a framework where R_1 is a 1-12 carbon substituted alkyl; F_1 is carboxyl; F_2 is amine; F_3 is absent; and F_4 is 1-12 carbon substituted alkyl. Applicant respectfully submits that each of pending claims 1-3, 10-11, 14-15, 83-146 reads on or includes this elected species.

The Species Election Requirement asserted that the claims include multiple species of number of building block molecules on the region on the solid support. Applicant elected about 80 distinct building block molecules. In the current Office Action, the Examiner noted that "about 80 distinct building block molecules" is not recited in any of claims 88, 115, and 122, as were indicated in the Species Election Requirement. Accordingly, Applicants submit this election of 4 as the number of building block molecules. Each of claims 88, 115, and 122 includes recitation of 4 building block molecules. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that each of pending claims 1-3, 10-11, 14-15, 83-146 reads on or includes this elected species.

For the reasons given below, Applicant submits that the presently pending claims fully comply with the requirements of 37 U.S.C. §§§ 102, 103, and 112 and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Claim Amendments

Independent claims 1 and 14 and dependent claims 2, 83, 91, 95 and 128 have been amended to include wording employed in the issued claims of the parent application (Serial No. 10/244,727, now U.S. Patent No. 7,504,364).

The Sila Reference

The Examiner has cited the Sila reference (Sila et al., Journal of Molecular Recognition, 8:29-34 (1995)) in a prior art rejection in another of Applicant's patent applications. Applicant respectfully submits that the Sila reference neither teaches nor suggests the presently claimed invention, either alone or in combination with another reference.

The present independent claims recite "building block molecules being independently covalently coupled to the solid support;" and "the region being a contiguous portion of the surface of the solid support with the different building block molecules distributed randomly throughout the contiguous region".

In contrast the Sila reference discloses cyclic peptide molecules with appended amino acids that mimic a discontinuous epitope. The cyclic peptide molecule is not a solid support nor does the Sila reference disclose the cyclic peptide molecule being covalently coupled to a solid support. Further, the amino acid residues that are appended to the cyclic peptide molecule are purposefully placed at predetermined locations to mimic a discontinuous epitope. The Sila reference does not disclose "different building block molecules distributed randomly throughout the contiguous region" on a solid support.

The chromatography disclosed by Sila employs the antibody that binds the discontinuous epitope bound to a CNBr-activated Sepharose (Sila et al., page 32, under the heading **"Preparation of the HyHEL-5 affinity column"**, HyHEL-5 is the antibody not the cyclic peptide). The antibody-Sepharose chromatography media was then used to bind certain of the modified cyclic peptides from a solution containing a mixture of the modified peptides (Sila et al., page 32, under the heading **"Binding test of TASK library to HyHEL-5 affinity column"**).

Accordingly, based on the foregoing differences, Applicant respectfully submits that the Sila reference neither teaches nor suggests the presently claimed compositions and receptors, either alone or in combination with another reference. Applicant respectfully submits that the presently pending claims fully comply with the requirements of 37 U.S.C. §§§ 102, 103, and 112 and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Summary

Applicant respectfully submits that the presently pending claims fully comply with the requirements of 37 U.S.C. §§§ 102, 103, and 112 and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below, if the Examiner believes that doing so will advance prosecution.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Merchant & Gould P.C., Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: 13 Apr '09

Mark T. Skoog
Reg. No. 40,178

MTS:kf